

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 OES-09 ICAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 L-03 SP-02 NSC-05 /052 W
-----006376 291835Z /43

R 291753Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1418
INFO USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 15746

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OEXC, TECH, CH, GW
SUBJECT: STUDY IN FRG BY PRC STUDENTS

REFS: A) PEKING 2316; B) BONN 14357; C) BONN 15592
(NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE FRG IS INCLINED FOR POLITICAL REASONS
TO AGREE TO PEKING'S REQUEST TO HAVE 500 STUDENTS STUDY
HERE. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, SEVERAL ADMINISTRATIVE
PROBLEMS WHICH MUST BE RESOLVED BEFORE A DEFINITIVE
DECISION CAN BE MADE. FRG CONSIDERATION OF THE CHINESE
REQUEST HAS BEEN STYMIED BY THE ABSENCE OF DETAILED
INFORMATION ON WHAT THE PRC HAS IN MIND. END SUMMARY.

1. ON AUGUST 28, EMBOFF CALLED ON FOREIGN OFFICE TO
DISCUSS STATUS OF FRG CONSIDERATION OF THE PRC REQUEST
TO HAVE 500 STUDENTS STUDY IN GERMANY. OUR INTER-
LOCUTOR BEGAN BY NOTING THAT PEKING HAD THUS FAR
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FURNISHED ONLY GENERAL INFORMATION ON ITS PLANS. IN
FACT, WHILE THE NUMBER OF CHINESE STUDENTS IN QUESTION
IS THOUGHT TO BE 500, EVEN THIS FIGURE HAS NOT BEEN
CONFIRMED BY PRC OFFICIALS HERE.

2. THE CHINESE HAVE TOLD THE GERMANS THE STUDENTS
WILL FALL INTO THREE GROUPS: HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

WHO WOULD BEGIN UNIVERSITY STUDY HERE; GRADUATE STUDENTS; AND YOUNG SCIENTISTS WHO HAVE FINISHED THEIR STUDIES AND WISH TO DO RESEARCH IN THEIR SPECIALITIES. THE STUDENTS WILL CONCENTRATE ON THE FOLLOWING STUDY AREAS: PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY, ENGINEERING, MEDICINE, AGRICULTURE AND ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT. CHINESE OFFICIALS HAVE NOT INDICATED WHAT THE BREAKDOWN OF THE THREE GROUPS WILL BE OR WHAT THEIR AREAS OF STUDY ARE. NOR DO THE GERMANS HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THE LANGUAGE ABILITY OF THE STUDENTS. THE PRC CULTURAL ATTACHE IS PRESENTLY IN PEKING DISCUSSING THE MATTER BUT THE GERMANS ARE NOT CLEAR AS TO WHEN HE WILL RETURN OR WHETHER HE WILL HAVE THE NECESSARY ANSWERS. IN THE ABSENCE OF HARDER INFORMATION, THE GERMANS ARE FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO DO MUCH ADVANCE PLANNING.

3. A RECENT MEETING OF FEDERAL, LAND (STATE) AND UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS RESULTED IN A CLEAR POLITICAL DECISION TO APPROVE THE CHINESE REQUEST. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, SEVERAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH BEFORE THE FRG CAN ACTUALLY GIVE ITS APPROVAL. THE PRIMARY DIFFICULTY, WHICH PERTAINS ONLY TO THE CHINESE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES, IS THAT THEIR DEGREES ARE NOT UP TO GERMAN UNIVERSITY ADMISSION STANDARDS. THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAS ASKED THE LAND

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MINISTRIES OF CULTURE (WHOSE PORTFOLIOS INCLUDE EDUCATION) TO LOOK INTO THIS WITH A VIEW TO FINDING A

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1419
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POSITIVE SOLUTION. WE HAVE THE CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT
THE LAND OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN GIVEN A MANDATE TO FIND AN
ANSWER EVEN IF IT MEANS LOWERING ADMITTANCE REQUIREMENTS.

4. A SECOND PROBLEM INVOLVES THE LIMITED NUMBER OF
PLACES SET ASIDE FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS IN CERTAIN
ACADEMIC FIELDS AT GERMAN UNIVERSITIES. OUR CONTACT
POINTED OUT, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE UNIVERSITIES WOULD
HAVE GREAT DIFFICULTY IF THE CHINESE CHOOSE TO
CONCENTRATE LARGE NUMBERS OF STUDENTS IN ONE OR MORE
DISCIPLINES, E.G. MEDICINE. THE FOREIGN OFFICE,
HOWEVER, ANTICIPATES LITTLE DIFFICULTY IN ABSORBING
THE PROSPECTIVE 500 STUDENTS IF THEY ARE FAIRLY EVENLY
DISTRIBUTED AMONG VARIOUS COURSES OF STUDY.

5. PRESENT THINKING IS TO ENROLL THE HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATES IN A ONE-YEAR GERMAN LANGUAGE COURSE AT
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GOETHE INSTITUTE. THIS WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY A 6-MONTH
COURSE OF INTENSIVE INSTRUCTION IN THE STUDENT'S AREA
OF SPECIALTY (TO ATTAIN GERMAN UNIVERSITY STANDARDS)
AS WELL AS TECHNICAL LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION IN THE
SPECIALTY. ASSUMING THEY CAN MEET GERMAN ACADEMIC
STANDARDS, THE GRADUATE STUDENTS AND YOUNG SCIENTISTS
WOULD ONLY BE REQUIRED TO TAKE A LANGUAGE COURSE.
THIS COULD BE WAIVED IN SOME CASES IF THE STUDENTS HAVE
ADEQUATE KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH. ACCORDING TO OUR
SOURCE, IT MAY BE POSSIBLE FOR SOME STUDENTS TO BEGIN
LANGUAGE COURSES LATER THIS YEAR -- IF THE CHINESE
SUPPLY THE NECESSARY INFORMATION.

6. WE ARE TOLD THAT PRC EMBASSY OFFICIALS HERE
HAVE EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN ABOUT THE ABILITY OF THE
STUDENTS TO WORK AT GERMAN UNIVERSITY LEVELS. THEY
HAVE ATTRIBUTED THIS TO THE SETBACKS IN CHINESE

EDUCATION CAUSED BY THE CHAOS OF THE CHINESE CULTURAL
REVOLUTION.

7. THE FOREIGN OFFICE UNDERSTANDS THAT THE CHINESE
HAVE ALSO REQUESTED A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF PLACES
IN AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES AND WE HAVE BEEN ASKED ABOUT
THE STATUS OF USG CONSIDERATION OF PEKING'S REQUEST.
PLEASE ADVISE.
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